Phoenix Historical Society
Organized in 1998; Opened in 1999

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Copper pot that contained Millie Bish's ashes on display with her story at the Phoenix Museum.

Millie Myrtle Bish--A Story To Be Told

This story began with a letter being sent in 2020 to seven surviving members of their great niece Millie Bish (1900-1928) by Phyllis Zegers of Roseburg, Oregon. Millie was the sister of their grandfather Lewis Thomas Bish. Phyllis is a genealogy hobbyist who was working with the Oregon State Hospital to let relatives of someone who died at the Oregon State Institution for the Feeble Minded (later called Fairview Home) in Salem, Oregon know where the ashes of a relative are in case they would like to receive them.

Millie's niece, Angie Lunde of Joseph, Oregon responded, retrieved the ashes that are now buried as of November , 2023 in the family's Phoenix Pioneer Cemetery plot. The ashes arrived in a copper can with the number 906 etched on top that is now on display in the Phoenix Museum.

Millie's story is as follows:
Millie was born at home on 11/15/1900 in Jackson County, in southern Oregon. She weighed 11 pounds. Her parents were Adeline "Adla" Catherine Woody and Allen Weaver Bish. Allen was born in Ohio about 1851. Millie's mother was born in 1857 in Iowa. They each came west in 1864 with their birth families. There was a movie "The Big Trail" about their lives as Oregon pioneers. Adla and Allen were married in 1875.
Millie was the youngest of their children, all of whom were born in Oregon. Millie's 9 siblings were: Joseph Abraham born in 1876), George William (1878), Minnie May (1879), Dora (1882), Austin Amos (1885), Henrietta "Etta" (1889), Almeda (1892), Johnnie (born in 1894 and died 1895), and Lewis Thomas (1896).

Her father was a carpenter, brick mason, and farmer. In the census of 1910, Millie was 9, living with her parents and siblings in Medford in Jackson County. It was reported she was attending school and could read and write.

A story told by one of Millie's older sisters who was teaching at Woodville (Rogue River) at the time, told of her visit with her sister Meda in Medford in the spring of 1942. Meda said that in September 1907 Millie was terribly hurt on the back of her head. She was a normal child in every way and had gone to school and was learning to read, was musical and could play a tune on the organ. Her head was bumped while she was at their sister Minnie's home. The house was small, only one room. Millie was on Minnie's bed and was playing when Minnie's mother-in-law who was visiting, grabbed her by the feet and pulled her off the bed striking her head against the wooden bed rail so hard that a skull fracture was the result. Millie's mother didn't realize how badly she was hurt. The next morning Millie had a spasm and the doctor was called. At that time there was little that could be done. She had to be taken out of school because of so many spasms.

About 1914 Millie was admitted to the Oregon State Institution for the Feeble-Minded in Salem, Oregon. At the time of the census of 1920 Millie was still a patient at the institution. It was said she was not attending school and was unable to read and write.

After having lived there for 14 years, Millie died at the institution on 1/21/1928.

Triangle Market

Triangle Food Market at 4263 South Pacific Highway was the pink block building in the north part of Phoenix, located at the corner of Hwy 99 and what is now East Bolz Rd. Built in 1950, my maternal grandparents owned it from 1951 to 1954 when my parents, Bud and Mary Campbell, took over the ownership and operation. They sold it to Mac and Nancy Moulton about 1964. Later the building housed the Phoenix Pharmacy.

December of 1953 Norton's Food Market opened. Previously the building located next door and to the north of the Triangle Market housed Triangle Hardware. The Rogue Valley Bakery (home of the Pink Champagne Cake) was located at Norton's.

The buildings are now all gone and the entire triangle shaped piece of property is no longer recognizable.

By Marlene Biddle

Bud and Mary Campbell, Marlene's parents, owned and operated Triangle Market from 1954 to 1964.

Triangle Market in the early 1950s.

Mid 1950s Triangle Market , Marlene's father, her paternal grandfather and herself.

Pink Champagne Cake Lingers Forever in Your Memory

Celebrating a birthday in the 1960s and 70s in Southern Oregon was always special if you got a pink champagne birthday cake from the Rogue Bakery in Phoenix, Ore. The shop along South Pacific Highway was owned by Dick and Lillian Hendrix who had operated bakeries from Alaska to Wyoming.

Lillian, a descendent of Shasta County pioneers, was born in Oak Run, Calif. Her son Gary described her as one of 11 children and said she had an "adventurous spirit." After getting married in the 1930s, the Hendrixes ran a bakery in Burney, Calif., but during World War II moved to Alaska. They had a variety of other bakeries in Alaska before moving to Phoenix and starting the Rogue Baker.

Lillian used food dyes to create images that looked like watercolors for cake decorations. President Lyndon Johnson received one of her cakes when he visited the Grand Teton National Park.

Lillian's wedding and sheet cakes were works of art, but the pink champagne cake's white chiffon layers, cream filling and pink butter cream frosting topped with pink and white chocolate shavings was a masterpiece with a taste that lingers forever.

Marlene Biddle
Ref (SOHS)

Editor's note:
Not only was Lillian a wonderful artist, but her husband Dick was a fantastic baker. All their products were made with authentic ingredients and so enjoyed. I worked at the Rogue Bakery for four years while attending college. My mother was also employed there for several years.

Phoenix Historical Society Board Members

Dick Croly: President

Ken Kantor: Vice President

Dorothy Cotton: Secretary

Dorothy Cotton: Treasurer

Lorraine Sexton

Margaret Croly

The Kantors of Fern Valley by Ken Kantor

Maybe my favorite photo of my grandparent's house was taken in 1957. The grape patch on the right was removed about 1966 or 68. The white building is an old Camp White building that was used for a shop. The shop has a U.S. Cannon Heater in it. We called it a pot bellied stove. It was from Camp White.

The 1946 Red Chevy Flat bed truck was used to haul pears. The house on the other side of the truck was built by my dad's parents, Joe and Anna, around 1924 when they bought the 40 acres of land. The grape patch was about two acres. There were a few apricot trees to the right of the shop. The orchard was almost all pears, but there were a few apple and a plum or two. The white barn in the distance is Chloe Small's barn that burned down 5 to 7 years ago. About 1980 there was a redwood tree maybe 30 feet tall near the front of the car by the far end of the house. Lightning struck it and blew the top out of the tree. Then about 20 years later my cousin Frank was between the red truck and the house when lighting struck the big black oak to the right of the truck. He was just far enough away to be okay. I saw the tree later. The bark of the tree was about half an inch thick and hard as heck. It had about an inch wide strip of bark gone most of the way up the tree.

The second photo is of my grandparent Joe and Anna Kantor. Joe was born in 1875 and Anna in 1879 in Hungary and came to the U.S. in 1900 and to the Phoenix area in 1915, first living on Coleman Creek Road, then Pioneer Road before buying the property on Payne Road in 1924. Joe and Anna had 9 children. My grandpa Joe died in December of 1950 about 10 years before I was born, but my grandma lived until about 1972.

The third photo is of Anna Kantor standing and Joe on the porch.

The fourth photo is the flat bed Chevy out front of the house about 1960. My sister Marilyn said they were still using the lug boxes in 1965. I think my uncle started using the large bins in 1966 or 67. My earliest memory of the orchard was my brother Joe and cousin Steve Honeycutt picking pears and throwing them at each other as they were picking into bins.

There was an old man we called Santos that worked for my uncle and lived in the shop. I remember my mom sending me across our yard to the shop to give him cookies.

Collapses in Phoenix From the February Snow

This is a photo of the Summit Beverage Distribution Company building giving weight under the snow. This was the former Associated Packing House in Phoenix for many years.

Photo by Jeremy Brady

This is a photo of the Phoenix Auto Center storage building taken from the backyard of and by John Keizer.

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Open Thursday thru Saturday
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Any historical information regarding Phoenix would be much appreciated by anyone receiving this newsletter. Please send to above address or editor.

Become a member of Phoenix Historical Society for just $10.00 a year per person. Join now and help preserve the history of Phoenix and the surrounding area.
Regular PHS meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at **7:00 p.m. at the Phoenix Museum.**

This 'n That

Phoenix Historical Society/Museum would like to welcome Ken Kantor as the new Vice President of its Board of Directors. He has been contributing knowledge, sharing items from his several collections and lending a helping hand for many years. Since retirement last fall, he has more time to devote toward his involvement with the museum. He grew up in the Fern Valley area and graduated from Phoenix High School.

Members of the Jackson County Heritage Association met for its February 14th meeting at the Phoenix Museum hosted by the Phoenix Historical Society.

The Jackson County Heritage Association is a group of fifteen non-profit educational organizations dedicated to the collection, preservation, and interpretation of Southern Oregon's cultural history..